

MEMO

Date: August 22, 2003
To: Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC)
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Subject: Regional Transportation Agencies' Coalition (RTAC) Report

RTAC met on August 22, 2003 at SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles. The following items were discussed at the meeting.

RTIP Scheduling Update

SCAG staff presented the conformity implications of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued letter dated August 8, 2003 regarding financial constraint requirements on the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). The FHWA letter was issued as a result of the State's newly adopted budget which contains provisions that impact transportation funding. Staff also presented the steps the SCAG region is taking to address this issue and the overall schedule impact on the 2004 RTIP.

Report on Air Quality Management Plan and Air Quality Conformity Issues

The 2003 South Coast Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) was adopted by the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Board on August 1, 2003. SCAG is responsible for producing the Regional Transportation Strategy and Control Measures (TCMs) portion of the 2003 AQMP (Appendix IVC). Appendix IVC was developed with active participation from the four County Transportation Commissions (CTCs) as well as in consultation with Federal, State and local transportation and air quality planning agencies and other stakeholders.

All agencies have agreed with SCAG's approach - which identifies the TCMs in the AQMP/State Implementation Plan (SIP) as the TCM projects specified in the first two years of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Substitution language is used to replace the TCMs in the AQMP/SIP each time the RTIP rolls over. This would preclude the need for a revision to the SIP.

SCAG staff is currently conducting analyses to ensure that the motor vehicle emission budgets for Ozone (VOC) in the 2003 SCAQMP, are sufficient for the 2004 RTP to demonstrate conformity for the Ozone attainment date of 2010.

Adoption of the CA SIP by ARB is scheduled for September 24, 2003. The hearing will be held at the AQMD Headquarters. Subsequently, the SIP will be submitted to EPA for their review and findings.

RTP Update

SCAG staff also provided an update on the development of the 2004 RTP. Staff reported that the Highway and Finance Task Force recommended the low Baseline Revenue forecast which totals approximately \$120 billion for the plan period through 2030 expressed in 2002 constant dollars. In addition to the baseline revenue forecast, an overview of the funding strategies for the 2004 RTP was presented which includes increase in state excise tax on fuel, extension of county transportation sales tax, strengthening of Proposition 42 and funding through private sources based primarily on new tolls and fares.

Staff also reported that adjustments are being made to the 'No Project' growth to reflect the latest data published by the state Department of Finance and Economic Development Department. A preliminary evaluation of the five growth scenarios recommended by the CEHD for further evaluation in May was presented. Lessons learned from this evaluation process as well as growth visioning work will be synthesized to develop the Hybrid Scenario, which will be presented as the Draft 2004 RTP at a joint policy committees workshop to be held on September 29, 03. RTAC members will be invited to the workshop and RTAC will convene briefly after the workshop to take necessary action on the proposed Draft 2004 RTP in order to ensure compliance with AB 1246, which requires that inter-agency consultation occur before a formal action such as release of the Draft RTP can be taken.